

STE

They turn their heads to sea, their *sterns* to land. *Dryd.*
 2. Post of management; direction.
 The king from Eltam I intend to send,
 And fit at chiefest *stern* of publick weal. *Shaksp. H. VI.*
 3. The hinder part of any thing.
 She all at once her beauly body raised,
 With doubled forces high above the ground,
 Though wrapping up her wretched *stern* around. *Fa. Queen.*
STERNAGE. n. f. [from *stern*.] The keel or stern. Not
 used.
 Grapple your minds to *sternage* of this navy,
 And leave your England as dead midnight still. *Shaksp. Lear.*
STERNLY. adj. [from *stern*.] In a stern manner; severely;
 truculently.

Sternly he pronounc'd
 The rigid interdiction. *Milton's Parad. Lost.*
 Yet sure thou art not, nor thy face the same,
 Nor thy limbs moulded in so lost a frame;
 Thou look'st more *sternly*, do'st more strongly move,
 And more of awe thou bear'st, and less of love. *Dryden.*
STERNNESS. n. f. [from *stern*.]
 1. Severity of look.

Of stature huge, and eke of courage bold,
 That sons of men amaz'd their *sternness* to behold. *Spenser.*
 How would he look to see his work to noble
 Willy bound up! or how
 Should I, in these my borrow'd slauts, behold
 The *sternness* of his presence! *Shaksp. Lear.*
 2. Severity or harshness of manners.

I have *sternness* in my soul enough
 To hear of soldiers work. *Dryden's Cleomenes.*
STERNON. n. f. [from *stern*.] The breast-bone.
STERNUTATION. n. f. [from *sternutatio*, Latin.] The act of
 sneezing.

Sternutation is a convulsive shaking of the nerves and mus-
 cles, first occasioned by an irritation of those in the nostrils.
Quincy.
 Concerning *sternutation*, or sneezing, and the custom of
 saluting upon that motion, it is generally believed to derive its
 original from a disease wherein *sternutation* proved mortal,
 and such as sneezed died. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
STERNUTATIVE. adj. [from *sternutatio*, Latin.]
 Having the quality of sneezing.

STERNUTATORY. n. f. [from *sternutatio*, Latin.]
 Medicine that provokes to sneeze.
 Physicians, in persons near death, use *sternutatories*, or such
 medicines as provoke unto sneezing; when if the faculty arise,
 and *sternutation* ensue, they conceive hopes of life. *Brown.*
STEVEN. n. f. [from *stevon*, Saxon.] A cry, or loud clamour.

Ne sooner was out, but swifter than thought,
 Fast by the hide, the wolf Lowder caught;
 And had not Rosly renne to the *stevon*,
 Lowder had been slain thilke same even. *Spenser.*

TO STEW. v. a. [from *stewer*, French; *stewen*, Dutch.]
 To seeth any thing in a slow moist heat.

Ere I was risen from the place, that show'd
 My duty kneeling, came a recking post,
 Stew'd in his haste, half breathless. *Shaksp. King Lear.*
 I bruised my skin with playing at sword and dagger with a
 matter of fence, three venes for a dish of *stew'd* prunes. *Shak.*

STEW. n. f. [from *stew*, French; *stufa*, Italian; *stufa*, Spanish.]
 1. A bagnio; a hot-house.

As burning *stewa* from his boiling *stew*
 Doth belch out flames, and rocks in pieces broke,
 And ragged ribs of mountains molten new,
 Enwrap in coal-black clouds and filthy smoke. *Fa. Queen.*
 The Lydians were inhibited by Cyrus to use any ar-
 mour, and give themselves to baths and *stews*. *Abbot.*

2. A brothel; a house of prostitution. [This signification is by
 some imputed to this, that there were licenced brothels near
 the *stews* or fishponds in Southwark; but probably *stews*, like
 bagnio, took a bad signification from bad use.]

There be that hate harlots, and never were at the *stews*; that
 abhor fallhood, and never brake promise. *Ascham.*

My business in this state
 Made me a looker-on here in Vienna,
 Where I have seen corruption boil and bubble,
 'Till it o'er-run the *stew*. *Shaksp. Lear.*

With them there are no *stews*, no dissolute houses, no cur-
 tains. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*

Her, though seven years she in the *stews* had laid,
 A nunnerly durst receive and think a maid
 And though in childbirth's labour she did lie,
 Midwives would swear 'twere but a tympany. *Donne.*

What mod'rate fop would rake the park or *stews*,
 Who among troops of faultless nymphs can chuse? *Roscom.*

Making his own house a *stew*, a bordel, and a school of
 lewdness, to infill the rudiments of vice into the unwary
 flexible years of his poor children. *South's Sermons.*

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3. [from *stewen*, Dutch, to store.] A storepond; a small pond where
 fish are kept for the table.

STEWWARD. n. f. [from *steward*, Saxon.]
 1. One who manages the affairs of another.

There fat ycalid in red,
 Down to the ground, a comely personage,
 That in his hand a white rod managed;
 He *steward* was, right diet, ripe of age,
 And in demeanour sober, and in council sage. *Fa. Queen.*
 Whilt I have gold, I'll be his *steward* still. *Shak. Timon.*

Take on you the charge
 And kingly government of this your land;
 Not as protector, *steward*, substitute,
 Or lowly factor for another's gain. *Shaksp. Richard III.*

How is it that I hear this of thee? Give an account of thy
 stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer *steward*. *Lu. vii.*
 When a *steward* defrauds his lord, he must connive at the
 rest of the servants while they are following the same prac-
 tice. *Swift.*

What can be a greater honour than to be chosen one of the
stewards and dispensers of God's bounty to mankind? What
 can give a generous spirit more complacency than to consider,
 that great numbers owe to him, under God, their subsistence,
 and the good conduct of their lives? *Swift.*

2. An officer of state.
 The duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims
 To be high *steward*. *Shaksp. Lear.*

STEWARDSHIP. n. f. [from *steward*.] The office of a
 steward.

The earl of Worcester
 Hath broke his staff, resign'd his *stewardship*. *Shaksp. R. II.*
 Shew us the hand of God

That hath dismiss'd us from our *stewardship*. *Shaksp. Lear.*
 If they are not employed to such purposes, we are false to
 our trust, and the *stewardship* committed to us, and shall be
 one day severely accountable to God for it. *Calamy's Sermons.*

STIBIAL. adj. [from *stibium*, Latin.] Antimonial.
 The former depend upon a corrupt incinerated melancholy,
 and the latter upon an adust *stibial* or eruginous sulphur. *Horn.*

STICADOS. n. f. [from *sticadus*, Latin.] An herb. *Ainsworth.*

STICK. n. f. [from *sticca*, Saxon; *sticca*, Italian; *stick*, Dutch.] A
 piece of wood small and long.

Onions as they hang will shoot forth, and so will the herb
 orpin, with which in the country they trim their houses, bind-
 ing it to a lath or *stick* set against a wall. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

Some strike from clashing flints their fiery seed,
 Some gather *sticks* the kindled flames to feed. *Dryden.*

But scrow your courage to the *sticking* place,
 And we'll not fail. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

They never doubted the commons; but heard all *stick* in
 the lords house, and desired the names of those who hindered
 the agreement between the lords and commons. *Clarendon.*

He threw: the trembling weapon pass'd
 Through nine bull-hides, each under other plac'd
 On his broad shield, and *stick* within the last. *Dryden.*

3. To be embarrassed; to be puzzled.
 Where they *stick*, they are not to be further puzzled by
 putting them upon finding it out themselves. *Locke.*

They will *stick* long at part of a demonstration, for want of
 perceiving the connexion of two ideas, that, to one more
 exercised, is as visible as any thing. *Locke.*

Souls a little more capacious can take in the connexion of
 a few propositions; but if the chain be prolix, here they *stick*
 and are confounded. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

14. *TO STICK out.* To be prominent with deformity.
 His flesh is consumed away that it cannot be seen, and his
 bones that were not seen *stick out*. *Job xxxiii. 21.*

15. *TO STICK out.* To be unemployed.
TO STICK. v. a. [from *stican*, Saxon; *stiken*, Dutch.]

1. To stab; to pierce with a pointed instrument.
 The Heruli, when their old kindred fell sick, *stick* them
 with a dagger. *Grew.*

2. To fix upon a pointed body.
 3. To fasten by transfixion.

Her death!
 I'll stand betwixt: it first shall pierce my heart:
 We will be *stick* together on his dart. *Dryd. Tyrant Love.*

4. To set with something pointed.
 A lofty pile they rear,
 The fabric's front with cypress twigs they strew,
 And *stick* the sides with boughs of baleful yew. *Dryden.*

STICKINESS. n. f. [from *stick*.] Adhesive quality; viscosity;
 glutinousness; tenacity.

TO STICKLE. v. n. [from the practice of prizefighters, who
 placed seconds with flaves or *sticks* to interpose occasionally.]

1. To take part with one side or other.
 Fortune, as she's wont, turn'd *stickle*,
 And for the foe began to *stickle*. *Hudibras.*

2. To contend; to altercation; to contend rather with obstinacy
 than vehemence.
 Let them go to't, and *stickle*,
 Whether a conclave, or a conventicle. *Cleveland.*

3. To stop; to lose motion.
 I shudder at the name!
 My blood runs backward, and my fault'ring tongue
Sticks at the found. *Smith's Phœdra and Hippolitus.*

5. To resist emission.
 Wherefore could I not pronounce amen?
 I had most need of blessings, and amen
Stuck in my throat. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

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6. To be constant; to adhere with firmness.
 The knave will *stick* by thee, I can assure thee that: he will
 not out, he is true bred. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*

The first contains a *sticking* fast to Christ, when the Chris-
 tian profession is perfected; and the second a rising from sin;
 as he rose, to a new Christian life. *Hammond.*

Some *stick* to you, and some to t'other side. *Dryden.*
 They could not but conclude, that to be their interest, and
 being so convinced, pursue it and *stick* to it. *Tillotson.*

The advantage will be on our side, if we *stick* to its essen-
 tials. *Addison's Freeholder.*

7. To be troublesome by adhering.
 I am satisfied to trifle away my time, rather than let it *stick*
 by me. *Pope's Letters.*

8. To remain; not to be lost.
 Proverbial sentences are formed into a verse, whereby they
stick upon the memory. *Watts.*

9. To dwell upon; not to forsake.
 If the matter be knotty, the mind must stop and buckle to
 it, and *stick* upon it with labour and thought, and not leave
 it till it has murthered the difficulty. *Locke.*

Every man, besides occasional affections, has beloved stu-
 dies which the mind will more closely *stick* to. *Locke.*

10. To cause difficulties or scruple.
 This is the difficulty that *sticks* with the most reasonable
 of those who, from conscience, refuse to join with the Revo-
 lution. *Swift.*

11. To scruple; to hesitate.
 It is a good point of cunning for a man to shape the answer
 he would have in his own words and propositions; for it makes
 the other party *stick* the less. *Bacon.*

The church of Rome, under pretext of exposition of Scrip-
 ture, doth not *stick* to add and alter. *Bacon.*

Rather than impute our miscarriages to our own corruption,
 we do not *stick* to arraign providence itself. *L'Estrange.*

Every one without hesitation supposes eternity, and *sticks*
 not to ascribe infinity to duration. *Locke.*

That two bodies cannot be in the same place is a truth
 that no body any more *sticks* at, than at this maxim, that it is
 impossible for the same thing to be, and not to be. *Locke.*

To *stick* at nothing for the publick interest is represented as
 the refined part of the Venetian wisdom. *Addison on Italy.*

Some *stick* not to say, that the parson and attorney forged a
 will. *Arbutnot.*

12. To be stopped; to be unable to proceed.
 If we should fail.
 — We fail!

But scrow your courage to the *sticking* place,
 And we'll not fail. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*

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 the lords house, and desired the names of those who hindered
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Heralds *stickle*, who got who;
 So many hundred years ago. *Hudibras.*

3. To trim; to play fast and loose; to act a part between op-
 posites.

When he sees half of the Christians killed, and the rest in
 a fair way of being routed, he *stickles* betwixt the remainder of
 God's host and the race of heels. *Dryden's Jew. Dedication.*

STICKLEBAG. n. f. [Properly *stickleback*, from *stick*, to prick.]
 The smallest of fresh-water fish.

A little fish called a *sticklebag*, without scales; hath his body
 fenced with several prickles. *Watson's Angler.*

STICKLER. n. f. [from *stickle*.]
 1. A hireman to fencers; a second to a duellist; one who stands
 to judge a combat.

Basilus came to part them, the *stickler's* authority being un-
 able to persuade cholerick hearers; and part them he did. *Sidon.*

Basilus, the judge, appointed *sticklers* and trumpets,
 whom the others should obey. *Sidon.*

Our former chiefs, like *sticklers* of the war,
 First fought t' inflame the parties, then to poise:
 The quarrel lov'd, but did the cause abhor;
 And did not strike to hurt, but made a noise. *Dryden.*

2. An obstinate contender about any thing.
 Quercetanus, though the grand *stickler* for the *tria prima*,
 has this concession of the irrefolubleness of diamonds. *Boyle.*

The inferior tribe of common women have, in most reigns,
 been the professed *sticklers* for such as have acted against the
 true interest of the nation. *Addison's Freeholder.*

The tory or high church clergy were the greatest *sticklers*
 against the exorbitant proceedings of king James II. *Swift.*

All place themselves in the list of the national church,
 though they are great *sticklers* for liberty of conscience. *Swift.*

STICKY. adj. [from *stick*.] Viscous; adhesive; glutinous.
 Herbs which last longest are those of strong smell and with
 a *sticky* stalk. *Bacon's Natural History.*

STIFF. adj. [from *stiff*, Saxon; *stiff*, Danish; *stif*, Swedish; *stifur*,
 Icelandic; *stif*, Dutch.]

1. Rigid; inflexible; resisting flexure; not flaccid; not limber;
 not easily flexible; not pliant.

They rising on *stiff* pinions tower
 The mid aerial sky. *Milton.*

The glittering robe
 Hung floating loose, or *stiff* with mazy gold. *Thomson.*

2. Not soft; not giving way; not fluid; not easily yielding to
 the touch.

Still less and less my boiling spirits flow;
 And I grow *stiff* as cooling metals do. *Dryd. Indian Emp.*

Mingling with that oily liquor, they were wholly incorpo-
 rate, and so grew more *stiff* and firm, making but one sub-
 stance. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

3. Strong; not easily resisted.
 On a *stiff* gale

The Theban swan extends his wings. *Denham.*
 4. Hardy; stubborn; not easily subdued.

How *stiff* is my vile sense,
 That I stand up, and have ingenious feeling
 Of my huge torrows! Better I were distract! *Shaksp. Lear.*

5. Obstinate; pertinacious.
 We neither allow unmeet nor purpose the *stiff* defence of
 any unnecessary custom heretofore received. *Hooker.*

Yield to others when there is cause; but it is a shame to
 stand *stiff* in a foolish argument. *Taylor.*

A war ensues, the Cretans own their cause,
Stiff to defend their hospitable laws. *Dryden.*

6. Harsh; not written with ease; constrained.
 7. Formal; rigorous in certain ceremonies; not disengaged in
 behaviour; starched; affected.

The French are open, familiar, and talkative; the Italians
stiff, ceremonious, and reserved. *Addison on Italy.*

8. In *Shakspere* it seems to mean strongly maintained, or as-
 serted with good evidence.

This is *stiff* news. *Shakspere.*

TO STIFFEN. v. a. [from *stiffen*, Saxon.]
 1. To make stiff; to make inflexible; to make unpliant.

When the blast of war blows in our ears,
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,
 Disguise fair nature with hard favour'd rage. *Shaksp. H. V.*

He *stiffen'd* his neck, and hardened his heart from turning
 unto the Lord. *2 Chron. xxxvi. 13.*

The poor, by them disrobed, naked lie,
 Veil'd with no other covering but the sky;
 Expos'd to *stiff'ning* frosts, and drenching showers,
 Which thicken'd air from her black bosom pours. *Sandys.*

Her eyes grow *stiffen'd*, and with sulphur burn. *Dryden.*

2. To make obstinate.
 Her *stiff'ning* grief,
 Who saw her children slaughter'd all at once,
 Was dull to mine. *Dryden and Lee.*

TO STIFFEN. v. n.
 1. To grow stiff; to grow rigid; to become unpliant.

Aghast, astonish'd, and struck dumb with fear,
 I stood; like brittle rose my *stiff'ning* hair. *Dryden.*